THIRD ANNUAL

SCREAM FORTRESS

PRESENTS

CAUTIONARY TALES OF READING

IN THIS ISSUE!

LIGHTNING!

BOOKS!

TWIST ENDINGS!

FOOL!

YE HAVE GAZED UPON THE BOMBINOMICON!

* NOT THE ACTUAL TWIST ENDING!

TRICK OR TREAT!

I HAVE CHILDREN! GIVE US CANDY! IT IS THE LAW!

SOLDIER, YOU WERE HERE WHEN WE TALKED ABOUT THIS.

THIS IS A PARTY FOR ***ADULTS***. WE AGREED WE WOULD ***NOT*** BE ANSWERING THE DOOR TO GIVE OUT--

LOOK, ME AND THESE KIDS ARE IN A ***LOT*** OF TROUBLE HERE. WE ARE ON THE LAM. WE HAVE NOT EATEN IN FOUR DAYS. THE POLICE AREN'T GOING TO BELIEVE I AM A ROBOT FOREVER. YOU HAVE TO--

YES, FINE.

LET'S SEE... WHAT I HAVE... AH!

THERE. MERRY CHRISTMAS.

HEY THERE, SLUGGER. C'MERE. YOU ARE GONNA LOVE THIS.
YOU SEE THIS BAT?
BAM! THAT... IS A HUMAN MOLAR.
FROM SOME DUMMY WITH A BIG MOUTH THAT USED TO BE FULLA TEETH.
IT'S ALL YOURS, LITTLE TALKIN' FRANCE.
TOINK
EVERY DAY HEAVY RISK LIFE.
TO EARN MONEY.
TO FEED FAMILY.
INSTEAD, YOU WOULD HAVE HEAVY SPEND THIS MONEY.
ON STUPID CANDY.
FOR YOU.
YOU PRESUMPTUOUS...
LAZY...
FAT...
WAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA
OH.
UM.
STOP. HEAVY DID NOT MEAN THIS.
LITTLE CHILD IS NOT FAT.
PEOPLE CALL HEAVY FAT. PLEASE STOP CRYING.
HERE. HERE IS SEVEN THOUSAND DOLLARS.

SIR?

TRICK OR TREAT?

GLUG GLUG GLUG

SORRY, LADS. I DUNNAE HAVE ANY CANDY FOR YE.

BUT I *HAVE* GOT SOMETHIN' *BETTER*.

A *GHOST* STORY.

T'WAS ALL-HALLOWS EVE.

THE ONE NIGHT OF THE YEAR WHEN THE DEAD WOULD RISE...

...AND, ACCORDIN' TO ME MUM, POSSIBLY HAVE JOBS FOR A YOUNG LAD OF SEVEN.

"COME MORNING THOSE HELLISH APPARITIONS WILL BE GONE! ALONG WITH ALL THEIR JOBS! GET YE TO THE MOORS, BOY!"

APPLY AT CASTLE

HELP WANTED

I NEVER DID FIND A GHOST ON THAT COLD OCTOBER NIGHT...

...BUT I DID FIND A JOB.

GOD HELP ME, I *DID* FIND A JOB.

WHO *DARES* DISTURB
MERASMUS THE MAGICIAN?

THIS IS AN ELDRITCH CASTLE OF DARK MAGICKE! NOT A PANCAKE HOUSE!

I'M NOT HERE FOR TREATS, SIR.

I'VE COME ABOUT THE JOB.

THE *JOB*, EH?

HMM...

AND WITHOUT ANOTHER WORD, HE STALKED INTO THE HOUSE.

WELCOME TO THE GRAND LIBRARY!

T'IS FILTHY WITH THE CORPSE DUST OF THE MANY POOR SOULS WHO TRIED TO CLEAN IT... AND ***FAILED!***

SWEEP THIS PLACE, AND I SHALL GIVE YE ***A NICKEL.***

BUT BEFORE YE BEGIN, HEAR ME WELL, CHILD. THIS LIBRARY HOLDS A ***CERTAIN BOOK.***

A BOOK OF FORBIDDEN KNOWLEDGE AND ANCIENT WICKEDNESS.

I WARN YE...

...GAZE NOT UPON THIS EVIL TOME.

DON'T LOOK AT THE BOOKS. GOT IT.

UH... YES. GOOD.

BUT... YOU PROBABLY *WANT* TO, RIGHT?

BECAUSE NO MATTER *HOW TEMPTED YE BE...*

REALLY, IT'S FINE.

I'LL JUST DUST.

THAT THE BROOM I SHOULD USE?

GAZE NOT UPON THE BROOM.

AND YES, THAT BROOM.

AND SO I SET TO WORK.

THE WITCHING HOUR APPROACHED...

...AND I SWEPT RIGHT THROUGH IT, AND *KEPT* SWEEPING UNTIL AT LAST THE FOUL PLACE WAS CLEANSED.

BUT AS I STOOD BACK TO ADMIRE MY HANDIWORK...

...REEEEEEEEAD MEEE...

AGH! WHO...?!

...REEEEEEEEAD MEEE...

YOU'RE A BOOK ABOUT... BOMBS?

...REEEEEEEEAD MEEE...

BUT THE MAGICIAN SAID NOT TO.

OH. THE MAGICIAN SAID NOT TO. WOW, I'M SORRY, THAT CHANGES EVERYTHING. I DIDN'T REALIZE SOME OLD IDIOT IN A DRESS TOLD YOU NOT TO READ SOMETHING.

GOSH, YOU BETTER NOT, THEN. HERE, WHY DON'T I JUST READ MYSELF.

FLIP
FLIP
FLIP

OH MY. THAT EXPLODES LIKE THAT, DOES IT? MY CONTENTS ARE FASCINATING AND NOT DANGEROUS AT ALL! THIS INFORMATION CHANGES EVERYTHING I THOUGHT I KNEW ABOUT BOMBS AND---

WELL, MAYBE A LITTLE PEEK...

PZARP

ARRRRGHHHHHH!

I HAUNTED YOUR EYE! I TOTALLY DID IT!

I'M HAUNTING YOUR EYE RIGHT NOW! THIS IS THE GREATEST MOMENT OF MY LIFE!

WHAT HAVE YE DONE?

NOW HE'LL NEVER SHUT UP ABOUT IT! I HAVE TO LIVE WITH THIS BOOK, YOU KNOW!

WE ONLY HAVE *ONE CHANCE!* BRACE YOURSELF, BOY!

BAZBO BADARBA!

WHEN I AWOKE, THE MAGICIAN WAS GONE. THE BOOK WAS GONE. THE CASTLE WAS GONE.
AND MY EYE WAS GONE.
BUT THEY SAY, ON HALLOWEEN, AT MIDNIGHT, YOU CAN STILL SPOT MY POSSESSED EYE STALKING THE MOORS WITH THAT WICKED MAGICIAN, MERASMUS.
MERASMUS?
THE ONLY THING THAT GOLDBRICKER'S DOING AT MIDNIGHT IS NOT THE DISHES!
LIAR! THOSE DISHES BE YOURS!
DON'T MAKE ME COME OVER THERE, MERASMUS!
GOOD LORD! AFTER ALL THESE YEARS... HE'S HERE?
HE'S MY ROOMMATE.

CELERY STICKS AND HUMMUS? WHAT FOOL CURSED THIS PARTY WITH A **VEGETARIAN PLATTER?**

NOBODY INVITED YOU, MERASMUS!

I AM GOING TO INVITE THAT STAFF STRAIGHT UP YOUR ASS AND PUSH YOU AROUND LIKE A BROOM!

DO NOT ANGER MERASMUS! A MAGICIAN INVITES HIMSELF!

WELL, THAT WOULD CERTAINLY BE THE FIRST TIME YOU SWEPT ANYTHING!

YOU SUNOVA...

NOOO!

HA!

CRACK

FOOL!
I PRONOUNCE THIS VILE PARTY OVER!
I SHALL RETURN TO OUR APARTMENT!
YOU, ON THE OTHER HAND, WILL FIGHT...
MONOCULUS!

I AM GOING TO SLAP THE MAGIC OUT OF YOUR MOUTH!

I'M CALLING THE POLICE!

TO BE CONTINUED IN THE
SCREAM FORTRESS
VERY SCARY HALLOWEEN SPECIAL